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**SALISBURY AND WILTON R.D.C.**



**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1949**



## ANNUAL REPORT, 1949.

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## FOREWORD.

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It is satisfactory to report that once again the district has been fortunate as regards the incidence of infectious disease. In this respect we compare very favourably with our neighbours.

Throughout the year we avoided all epidemics of infantile paralysis, smallpox and typhoid, diseases which are causing some anxiety in the country today and which, especially smallpox, are almost certain to become more prevalent as travel from countries where these diseases are endemic to our own becomes easier, quicker and cheaper,

In this connection it is sad to think that there are parents who will expose their children to definite risk from this disease and yet on the first note of alarm will rush to have them vaccinated. The risk from vaccination with the carefully checked and controlled government lymph is now infinitesimal.

The response to immunisation against diphtheria has on the other hand been good. We had again not a single case of this disease in the district.

During the year we had the usual outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, mumps, etc., but only one death occurred and that was from whooping cough.

The birth rate and death rate are both satisfactory figures, the birth rate being slightly higher and the death rate slightly lower than the average for the whole country. Both figures are slightly lower than last year.

The thirty-two parishes appoint thirty-four Councillors to the District Council, which meets at four-weekly intervals.



## VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

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### BIRTHS

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 18·8
Live Births—Legitimate	297	155	142	
Illegitimate	16	8	8	
Still Births—Legitimate	9	4	5	} Rate per 1,000 live & still births 27·9
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

### DEATHS

	Total	M.	F.	} Death Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 11·1
Deaths ...	191	97	94	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Number of deaths...(7 legitimate, 0 illegitimate)...	7
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	22
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Number of deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhœa (under two years)	1

## ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

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### The Birth Rate.

The year 1949 has been again a satisfactory year from the public health point of view. Our birth rate this year is 18·8 per thousand of population, which does not quite equal our last year's figure of 20·4.

### The Death Rate.

Our death rate has varied very little over the past years, being this year 11·1 per thousand as compared with 12·8 last year. It will be seen on studying the analysis of death causes below that with the exception of tuberculosis very few deaths resulted from infectious diseases and none from causes associated with maternity, and that the bulk of deaths were from diseases which are more or less concomitant with old age.

### Notes on Major Causes of Death.

#### 1. Deaths from Cancer (16%).

Out of a total death roll of 191 there were 32 deaths from cancer, i.e. 16%. This percentage has varied very little during the last 14 years as shown below.

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
14%	14%	14%	15%	15%	14%	17%
1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
9%	14%	16%	15%	16%	15%	16%

Average figure 15%.



## 2. *Deaths from Heart Disease only.*

This figure is also a more or less constant one throughout the years. In 1948 it was 30% and this year it is 33%. Deaths during the last 14 years are given for comparison.

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
33%	19%	28%	28%	33%	29%	33%
1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
31%	35%	29%	30%	30%	30%	33%

## 3. *Deaths from Intra-cranial Lesions.*

Intra-cranial Lesions accounted for 27 out of our 191 deaths. This again is a fairly constant figure.

The above three causes cover approximately 60% of our deaths.

## 4. *Deaths from Tuberculosis (2.6%).*

The actual number of deaths this year was five. It is interesting to compare this with previous years

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
3%	2%	2%	3%	1.2%	3.4%	4%
1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
1.5%	2%	1.5%	2%	2.8%	2.73%	2.6%

It should be remembered in reading the above figures that the number of deaths is a small one and that therefore the occurrence of one or two additional deaths makes a relatively greater difference in the percentage figure than when dealing with large numbers. Taking this into consideration it will be seen that the death rate is slightly lower than in 1936.

### 5. Other Deaths.

These run more or less on a par with other years and call for no special comment.

### Causes of Death.

Total Deaths 191 (Male 97, Female 94).

	Actual Number of Deaths 1949	% total of Deaths 1948	% total of Deaths 1949
Usual Infectious diseases excluding Tuberculosis	2	0	1'04
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary 5, Non Pulmonary 0)	5	2'73	2'61
Cancer	32	17'8	16'75
Diabetes	0	0'45	0'00
Intracranial Lesions	27	16'9	14'14
Heart Diseases	64	27'4	33'60
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	13	4'10	6'80
Bronchitis	0	4'10	0'00
Pneumonia...	5	2'73	2'61
Other respiratory diseases	2	2'73	1'04
Ulcer of stomach or duo- denum	1	1'40	0'52
Appendicitis	0	1'40	0'00
Other digestive diseases	6	1'40	3'13
Nephritis	2	1'82	1'04
Premature Birth	2	1'82	1'04
Congenital Birth Injuries	3	2'73	1'57

Suicide	...	...	0	0.90	0.00
Road traffic accidents	...		2	0.45	1.04
Other violent causes	...		2	2.30	1.04
All other causes	...		17	6.84	8.90
Diarrhoea (under 1 year)			1	0.00	0.52
Syphylitic Diseases	...		1	0.00	0.52
Influenza	..	...	4	0.00	2.09
			<hr/> 191		<hr/> 100.00

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1949, in certain groups, for comparison with those obtaining in Salisbury and Wilton Rural District.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates  
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1949.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	Salisbury and Wilton R. D.
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
<b>Births.</b>					
Live Births	... 16·70	18·70	18·00	18·50	18·80
Still Births	... 0·39	0·47	0·40	0·37	0·87
<b>Deaths.</b>					
All Causes	... 11·70	12·50	11·60	12·20	11·10
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	... 0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	... 0·01	0·02	0·01	0·01	0·05
Diphtheria	... 0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis	... 0·45	0·52	0·42	0·52	0·20
Influenza	... 0·15	0·15	0·14	0·11	0·00
Smallpox	... 0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	... 0·01	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·05
Pneumonia	... 0·51	0·56	0·49	0·59	0·23

*Notifications (corrected)*

Typhoid Fever	...	0'01	0'01	0'01	0'01	0'00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0'01	0'02	0'01	0'01	0'00
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	0'02	0'03	0'02	0'02	0'00
Scarlet Fever	...	1'63	1'72	1'83	1'46	0'00
Whooping Cough	...	2'39	2'44	2'39	1'70	3'80
Diphtheria	...	0'04	0'05	0'04	0'07	0'00
Erysipelas	...	0'19	0'20	0'19	0'17	0'05
Smallpox	...	0'00	0'00	0'00	0'00	0'00
Measles	...	8'95	8'91	9'18	8'54	5'96
Pneumonia	...	0'80	0'91	0'65	0'55	0'35
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0'13	0'13	0'12	0'18	0'00
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	0'01	0'01	0'02	0'01	0'00
Food Poisoning	...	0'14	0'16	0'14	0'19	0'00

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

*Deaths.*

All causes under one year of age	...	32	37	30	29	22
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	...	3'0	3'8	2'4	1'7	0'05

The Maternal Mortality rate in the Salisbury and Wilton Rural District was nil.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	66
Measles	...	102
Acute Pneumonia	...	6
Erysipelas	...	1

### Tuberculosis—Primary cases only.

Pulmonary—11 cases.

Other than Pulmonary—3 Cervical Glands.  
1 Pleura.

—  
Total 4

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0				
1				
5				
10		1	1	1
15	1	1		1
20	1			1
25	1	3		
35	1	2		
45				
55				
65 & upwards				
Age not known				
Totals	4	7	1	3



## **Details of PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION in the District.**

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### **Hospitals.**

Three Hospitals serve the district. Two of these, Odstock and Salisbury Infirmary, take the general cases and the third, Old Sarum, takes the Infectious cases.

### **Ambulance Service.**

Existing Ambulance services still continue under the direction of the Wiltshire County Council.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The examination of Swabs, Water Samples, etc., is carried out at the Pathological Laboratory at Salisbury Infirmary.

### **Care of Aged.**

The accommodation offered at Tower House has recently been greatly improved and now includes a sick bay in the grounds. The position is now as satisfactory as institutional care can make it. It is however hoped that when the acute housing shortage is relieved consideration may be given to the housing of these old people requiring care and attention.

### **Public Health Staff.**

The staffing of the Public Health Department is as follows:—

Medical Officer of Health.

Two Sanitary Inspectors holding the additional qualification of Meat and Food Inspectors.

One Housing and Technical Assistant.

Two Clerical Assistants.

# HOUSING.

The following schedule sets out the position at the end of the year; the totals have been adjusted to take into account premises that have become void.

PARISH	ESTIMATED NO. OF HOUSES 1945		POST WAR NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED AT 31-12-49			TOTAL	DWELLING HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION 31-12-49	
	Private	L.A.	L.A.	Private	Conversion Adaptation Huttred Camps, etc.		L.A.	Private
Alderbury .. .. .	301	—	—	3	26	331	—	—
Barford St. Martin .. .. .	191	—	4	—	—	195	—	—
Berwick St. James .. .. .	43	—	4	—	6	53	—	—
Bishopstone and Stratford Tony .. .. .	164	14	4	—	1	183	—	—
Bowerchalke .. .. .	114	2	4	—	—	120	—	—
Britford .. .. .	74	—	—	—	—	74	—	—
Broadchalke .. .. .	177	4	4	1	—	186	—	—
Burcombe .. .. .	82	2	4	—	—	88	—	—
Clarendon Park .. .. .	82	—	—	—	8	90	—	—
Compton Chamberlayne .. .. .	55	—	—	—	1	56	—	—
Coombe Bissett .. .. .	139	2	—	—	—	141	4	—
Downton .. .. .	454	22	8	11	24	519	—	2
Dinton .. .. .	104	6	—	—	16	126	—	—

Ebbesbourne Wake	..	..	..	63	2	—	5	—	70	—	—
Fovant ..	..	..	..	140	8	6	—	4	158	—	1
Grimstead	..	..	..	84	—	—	3	1	88	—	—
Landford	..	..	..	160	—	—	3	3	166	8	—
Laverstock	..	..	..	269	12	—	9	3	293	—	—
Netherhampton	..	..	..	68	—	—	—	1	69	—	—
Odstock..	..	..	..	150	—	4	—	—	154	—	1
Pitton and Farley	..	..	..	134	4	4	—	1	143	4	—
Quidhampton	..	..	..	110	—	—	—	10	120	—	—
Redlynch	..	..	..	656	—	22	5	15	697	24	—
South Newton	..	..	..	100	12	8	10	10	140	—	—
Stapleford	..	..	..	78	—	6	1	—	85	6	—
Steeple Langford	..	..	..	141	2	8	—	—	151	—	—
Stratford Sub Castle	..	..	..	62	—	—	—	—	62	—	—
West Dean	..	..	..	47	—	—	1	—	48	4	—
Whiteparish	..	..	..	259	—	10	9	4	282	—	—
Winterslow	..	..	..	303	6	4	2	4	319	4	1
Wishford	..	..	..	70	4	4	—	—	78	—	—
Wylve ..	..	..	..	142	8	—	—	1	151	—	—

During the year the Housing Committee was energetic in getting on with the housing programme, though progress is of necessity slow, considering the great number of houses still needed. The waiting list of persons desirous of building their own houses continues to grow and many of the smaller builders should be encouraged to build dwelling houses in order to reduce the long waiting list for both Local Authority and Private Enterprise houses. The serious effect on family life of living in apartments, sub-standard houses and with 'in-laws' is made only too plain by the pathetic cases that call at the office for guidance and help

### **Reconstruction of Cottages.**

It is very satisfactory to note that a total of 31 cottages were reconstructed and provided with modern amenities and drainage during the past year. This reflects great credit on the Sanitary Inspectors who have spent a great deal of time interviewing owners and visiting these cottages to ensure that the work has been done satisfactorily. While the limits on reconstruction allowed by Building Licensing still operate to the full I think it is only fair to say that the very best use has been made of the "monetary ceiling" set by the Ministry of Works. The efforts of the senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff are yielding good results in this very important section of the Housing Programme by increasing the effective life of existing houses.

I have great pleasure in reporting that during the year good results attended the efforts of the Sanitary Inspectors to abolish pail closets, and a total of 22 were last year converted to water closets.

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

During the year progress has been made with schemes for supplying piped water to the district, yet much more remains to be done, and though progress is slow many of the inhabitants of the district can look forward to the benefits of a piped supply of water in the not too distant future.

The following schedule shows the present position in the various parishes.



PARISH	Registrar's General's Estimated Population at March 1949	No. of houses	Source of Supply	Approx. % of supplies connect- ed to house	REMARKS
Alderbury .. ..	1003	329	Piped supply from main owned by the Earl of Radnor.	98%	
Barford St. Martin	527	195	Private Wells.		
Berwick St. James ..	136	48	Mainly supplied from Manor Farm Supply.	50-60%	
Bishopstone and Stratford Toney..	515	183	Wells and private Supplies.	50%	
Bowerchalke ..	359	116	Wells and private Supplies	20%	
Britford .. ..	345	74	Wells and Private Supplies.	50%	At the time of writing this report a scheme is being prepared to purchase water in bulk from Salisbury City and lay mains in village.
Broadchalke ..	611	181	Wells.		
Burcombe .. ..	232	84	Wells & Private Supplies.		

Clarendon Park ..	311	88	Estate Private Supply.	80%	
Compton Chamberlayne ..	135	55	Wells and Private piped supply.	80%	
Coombe Bissett ..	382	141	Wells and private piped supply.		
Dinton ..	444	216	Supplied from Manor Farm Private Supply.	90%	This village will eventually be supplied from the Fovant Source,
Downton ..	1861	515	Wells		Water mains will soon be laid by the West Hants Water Supply Co,
Ebbesbourne Wake	199	69	Supplied by Manor Farm scheme, leased and managed by the Council.	92%	
Fovant ..	420	151	Springs		Agreement has been reached with the Air Ministry for a supply of water in bulk for this village and at the time of writing this report mains are being laid to supply the whole village.
Grimstead ..	342	87	Private wells, and part of West Grimstead supplied by the Earl of Radnor's Supply.	10%	A new bore hole has been drilled at Farley and a scheme to supply this parish from the source is well advanced.



PARISH	Registrar General's Estimated Population at March 1949	No. of houses	Source of Supply	Approx. % of supplies connect- ed to house	REMARKS
Landford .. ..	484	166	Wells		Now included in Statutory area to be supplied by W. H. Water Co.
Laverstock and Ford .. ..	1164	269	Wells and bulk supply from Salisbury City.	50%	
Netherhampton ..	184	68	Wells and private piped supply.	10%	A scheme has been prepared for a piped supply to this parish.
Odstock .. ..	432	154	Mainly supplied from Longford Estate Supply.	75%	
Pitton and Farley ..	416	143	Public Supply.	95/96%	
Quidhampton ..	477	120	Supplied by mains from Salisbury City Supply.	98%	Negotiations are in progress for this village to be supplied in bulk from Wilton Borough.
Redlynch .. ..	2097	669	West Hants Water Co.	60%	
South Newton ..	448	137	Private Wells		The water supply to this village is far from satisfactory.

Stapleford .. ..	221	79	Private Wells		The water supply to this village is far from satisfactory.
Steeple Langford ..	485	151	Private Wells		A scheme for supplying this village has been approved and a new starting date of Sept, 1st, 1950, awarded for this very necessary work.
Stratford-sub-Castle	237	62	Water supplied by mains purchased in bulk from Salisbury City.	98%	
West Dean ..	185	48	Practically whole of village supplied by the Norman Court Estate.		
Whiteparish ..	856	268	Public supply owned and controlled by the R.D.C.	95%	
Winterslow ..	886	314	Winterslow Water Supply Co.	95%	
Wishford .. ..	246	74	Private Wells		
Wylke .. ..	322	150	Private Wells		A scheme for supplying this village has been approved and a new starting date of September 1st, 1950, awarded for this very necessary work

## Samples.

Seventy-six samples of water were taken during the year.

Regular samples were taken from all the public supplies during the past year and all these proved to be consistently satisfactory.

Many of the samples from private sources were polluted but after remedial works had been carried out the majority proved to be satisfactory.

## FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

### Factories - Premises.

	No. on register	No of inspections	No. of written notices	No of occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Author- ities	22	10	—	—
Factories not includ- ed in (1) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforce- ment) Order, 1938	73	42	—	—
(b) Others	—	—	—	—
Other premises un- der the Act (exclud- ing out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	95	52	—	—

**Factories - Defects.**

Number of cases in which defects were found						
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H M. Inspector	Cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	2	—	
Sanitary Convenience						
(1) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—	
(2) Unsuitable and Defective ...	2	2	—	2	—	
(3) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ...	4	4	—	4	—	

**Outworkers' Premises.**

Number on register	...	...	...	8
Work—Making of Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	8
Number of cases of default in sending lists to Council				—
Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists				—
Number of instances of work done in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	—
Notices served		...	...	—
Prosecutions		...	...	—

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following table shows the results of Meat inspection carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughter House at Stratford-sub-Castle, and the South Wilts Bacon Co. Ltd. The Council will notice that the following figures show a considerable increase in the number of animals killed during 1949 compared with previous years.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed	...	638	2,777	13,435	9,623	23,202
No. Inspected	.	638	2,777	13,435	9,623	23,202
All diseases except Tuberculosis —						
Whole carcases						
Condemned		3	8	48	24	24
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	...	8	40	2	10	20
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcases						
condemned	...	3	50	10	—	70
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	...	69	627	—	—	798
Percentage of number inspected with T.B.	...	11·28%	24·3%	0·07%	—	3·27%



## **Cysticercus Bovis** (*“Measles” in Beef*).

During the year routine inspection of all cattle slaughtered has been carried out for the presence of the cystic stage of *Tænia Saginata*, the Tapeworm which infests the intestines of man.

Eight carcasses were found to be affected and in all cases the cysts were confined to the Masseter muscles or the Heart muscles. All the cysts were in a degenerate state.

## **Milk and Dairies.**

The introduction of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, and the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Act, 1949 and regulations made under these Acts on the 1st October, 1949, made certain changes in administration and responsibility for milk production and also for its subsequent sale for consumption.

Briefly, the Local Sanitary Authority are no longer responsible for any share in the production side but are only concerned with Dairies (not registered as Dairy Farms) and in the distribution and sale of milk. Registration under this new arrangement is as follows:—

### Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949:—

(1) Number of Dairies (not registered as Dairy Farms)	...	...	6
(2) Number of Distributors	...	...	11

### Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Raw Milk Regulations, 1949:—

(1) Number of Supplementary Licences (T.T.)	3
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## **Nuisances.**

Many and varied complaints were received during the year regarding nuisances, but all these were dealt with informally, and I am happy to be able to report that in no case was it necessary to take statutory action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

G. NAPIER.





